

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes
Location: WUTC - Olympia, WA
December 5, 2005

Present

Katie Hansen, Chair
Carl Weimer, Vice Chair
Duane Henderson
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Pete Kmet
Grant Jensen
Shirley Olson
Nate Moxley
Bill Rickard
Jean Buckner

Absent

Jim Clark
Leo Bowman

Public present at the meeting

Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Marina Woodard, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)
Rebecca Post, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE)
Dave Barnes, BP Olympic Pipe Line
Larry Hjalmarson, Williams Northwest Pipeline
Del Draper, Williams Northwest Pipeline
Victoria Lincoln, Association of Washington Cities (AWC)
Dan Kirschner, Northwest Gas Association (NWGA)
Garry Scott, Lewis County

Agenda:

1. Adoption of October 20, 2005 Meeting Minutes
2. Welcome and Introduction of Members
3. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update
4. Status Report - Lewis County Landslide and Skamania Rock Quarry Citizens Concern
5. Summary of Land Use Workshops-Next Steps
6. Confirmation of Committee Legislative (bill review) Decision Process
7. Feedback on WUTC Logic Model & Strategic Planning Process

8. Damage Prevention-UTC Strategy and Potential Fed. Legislation
9. 2006 Committee Meeting Schedule
10. Update on WUTC Small Gas System Study-Notice of Inquiry
11. GIS/Pipeline Map Security
12. Public Right to Know-Website Design
13. Other Business and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. **Adoption of October 20, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was brought to order. The Committee approved the minutes as amended.

2. **Welcome and Introduction of Members** – The Chair welcomed all members present and introduced two new members to the committee, Jean Buckner and R. William Rickard Jr. (Bill)

3. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update** – Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update on the current events in the pipeline safety section.

WUTC Enforcement Actions

Weyerhaeuser:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has accepted a settlement between its state pipeline safety program and Weyerhaeuser Company regarding a operator qualification complaint against the company's pipeline filed earlier in the year.

As a result of the [order approving the settlement](#), Weyerhaeuser will pay a \$75,000 penalty and submit to a third-party audit of its Operator Qualification program in the fourth quarter of 2006.

On May 2, 2005, the UTC filed a [complaint](#) against Weyerhaeuser, alleging that the company's natural gas pipeline operator failed to comply with state and federal Operator Qualification requirements. The complaint was based on a [2004 inspection](#). Weyerhaeuser owns and operates a 10-mile pipeline that connects its Longview Mill to the Williams Northwest Pipeline east of I-5 and the city of Longview. Federal and state safety rules require all natural gas operators to develop a plan on operator qualifications and complete the tasks outlined by the plan. At the time of the 2004 inspection, staff investigation found nine probable violations with the company's operator qualification plan. During the ensuing months, Weyerhaeuser retained an outside expert and developed an updated operator qualification plan. After review by the UTC's pipeline safety staff, Weyerhaeuser completed additional refinements to ensure compliance with state and federal safety standards. The 2006 audit, required under the proposed settlement, would review implementation of the plan.

Gas Safety Rule Tune-Up

The Commission adopted the rules as proposed in their earlier Notice of Intent. The Order adopting this amendment was filed with the Code Reviser on November 23, 2005. The rule amendments become effective 31 days following this filing.

Williams NW Capacity Replacement Project

Construction has begun on Horizontal Directional Drills (HDD) in conjunction with this project to construct 79 miles of 36-inch natural gas transmission pipeline. Three crews are working simultaneously on drills under the North Fork Nooksack, North Fork Stillaguamish and South Fork Stillaguamish rivers

Citizen Concerns Related to Pipeline Safety

Olympic Colony Creek Crossing:

Olympic Pipeline has deployed over 300 sandbags, anchored by steel bars, along the bank of Colony Creek to further stabilize the slope. About 21 feet of the company's 16-inch petroleum pipeline is exposed as it crosses the creek in an area about 1 mile inland from Samish Bay in Skagit County in an area called Blanchard. Protracted landowner negotiations and early rains delayed a permanent covering of the pipeline until next summer. Olympic continues to do twice a week inspections of the site, including more timely inspections when the area has received more than 1 inch of rain in a 24-hour period. Department of Ecology, Skagit County Emergency Management, Olympic and the pipeline safety program have been communicating regularly regarding the status of this creek crossing.

4. **Status Report - Lewis County Landslide and Skamania Rock Quarry Citizens Concern**

Lewis County Landslide

Larry Hjarmarson, operations manager of Williams Northwest Pipeline, presented a slide presentation on the status of Williams 26-inch and 30-inch pipelines in Lewis County following land movement in late October. This event happened on property owned by Trans Alta which operates a coal mine adjacent to their pipelines. Land movement put apparent stress on both of Williams lines and Olympic's petroleum product pipeline which parallels Williams in this vicinity. Both Williams and Olympic have reduced operating pressures and excavated the impacted portions of the lines to relieve stress. The excavations will remain open for the immediate future to assure no further land movement impacts their integrity. Both operators are awaiting final geotechnical reports from their consultants as to the cause of the land movement and further recommended mitigation.

Skamania Rock Quarry Citizens Concern

A response letter from the Committee was sent to the citizens, Kathy and Brad Barnes on November 10, 2005, regarding their concern over Skamania County Planning

Department approving a rock quarry near 26" main of Williams Pipeline. The response letter explained how Williams has been aware of the quarry operations and have been in regular contact with the quarry owner. According to Williams, their geotechnical engineer's review found the quarry operation does not currently have an impact on the integrity of the pipeline. A summary of the consultant's review has been communicated to County planning officials and Williams continues to work with the quarry proponent to assure that any future operations do not impact their pipeline.

5. **Summary of Land Use Workshops-Next Steps**

The WUTC Pipeline Safety Program in cooperation with the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington State Association of Counties, Pipeline Safety Trust and the Municipal Research and Services Center conducted five Land Use Workshops last month. The workshops primarily focus on how local governments, pipeline operators and developers can improve pipeline safety through a consultation process early in any planned project. Over 100 participants including local government planners and other local officials attended one of the five workshops. Participation was very active during the workshops and most attendees were supportive of the concept of a consultation zone 660 feet either side of a transmission pipeline. An amended set of draft guidelines will be written based on the feedback received from these workshops. The draft guidelines and the presentation on the Trickle Creek development case study are available via UTC web page at <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline>.

6. **Confirmation of Committee Legislative (bill review) Decision Process**

The Committee discussed a process to allow for prompt review and comment on upcoming legislation. The session will only last for 60 days. Chair Katie Hansen requested UTC Pipeline Safety Staff summarize and distribute via e-mail any bills of interest for Committee consideration. Members agreed to hold a conference call and/or discuss via e-mail in order to reach a Committee position and whether a representative will be asked to testify.

7. **Feedback on WUTC Logic Model & Strategic Planning Process**

Tim Sweeney handed out a Pipeline Logic Model Discussion Draft. Committee members offered comments on logic model, including suggesting that the term "3rd party" not be used and that terms be used to encourage industry buy in to the outcomes. It was also suggested that the commission continue to look for ways to compare Washington to other states.

8. **Damage Prevention-UTC Strategy and Potential Fed. Legislation**

On November 16, 2005, an ad hoc meeting of interested persons was held to brainstorm potential damage prevention initiatives by the WUTC. A copy of the ideas generated at that meeting was distributed. It is possible that one or more of these initiatives will be pursued through a "One-Call" federal OPS grant request.

9. **2006 Committee Meeting Schedule**

The Committee members agreed to the following meeting schedule for 2006:

Thursday, January 12

Thursday, February 9

Thursday, March 16

Thursday, May 11

Wednesday, July 19

Thursday, September 14

Thursday, October 12

Thursday, November 9

Locations of these meetings are yet to be determined. The schedule will be posted on the WUTC website.

10. **Update on WUTC Small Gas System Study-Notice of Inquiry**

Tim Sweeney distributed a draft of Notice of Inquiry on WUTC Small Gas System Study to the Committee members during the meeting. This notice of inquiry will be distributed broadly within and outside the state, including industry representatives. The information collected will help UTC identify ways to define small gas systems based on risk and recommend possible rule or legislative amendments to develop an appropriate regulatory scheme.

Committee member, Pete Kmet recommended sending the notice to fire departments and fire marshals that might know more about small natural gas and propane pipeline systems.

11. **GIS/Pipeline Map Security**

Dan Kirschner of Northwest Gas Association (NWGA) distributed a discussion paper on his association position on public disclosure of pipeline GIS and mapping information. The NWGA recommends that a new exemption to the public disclosure law be inserted in RCW 42.17.310 (1) which restrict the release of pipeline GIS mapping data, except for assistance to pipeline operators, first responders, local governments and one-call number locator services.

Mr. Kirschner stated that State Representative Jeff Morris intends to sponsor this legislation. He invited the Committee to offer suggestions to the draft language.

Discussion followed but the Committee did not take a position on the proposal but deferred that decision to the January 2006 meeting.

12. **Public Right to Know-Website Design**

The Pipeline Safety Trust has created a website which contains state by state pipeline information. The website contains pipeline related information obtained from industry, OPS and state regulatory websites. Members discussed several issues including the potential endorsement of the website and linking the Citizens Committee website to this information. The Committee asked that they be given the opportunity to view the Pipeline Safety Trust, WUTC and OPS websites at their next meeting in January.

13. **Other Business and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Other Business - Committee Members-Terms expiring in 2006

Chair Katie Hansen reminded the members, Shirley Olson, Pete Kmet, Duane Henderson and Grant Jensen of their term in serving to the committee will be expired on July 31, 2006. Any Committee member that would like to be considered for reappointment need to write a cover letter re-introducing him/herself, how many years on the committee, background information and also requesting to be reappointed in the committee; fill out a revised Governor committee application and send by mail the cover letter and the application to:

Shana Melanson
Executive Appointments Analyst
Office of Governor Christine O. Gregoire
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Marina will e-mail the gubernatorial application form to the members whose terms will be expired soon. A copy of the letter and application need to be sent to Alan Rathbun or Marina Woodard via mail or e-mail for WUTC filing.

Next Agenda Items

- 1) NWGA Legislation - Maps/GIS (including discussion as to whether mapping mandate should be expanded to smaller pipelines).
- 2) Website Demonstration

The next Citizens Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2005 in Olympia. The meeting location will be notified later via e-mail.